

Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Legislature sets abortion showdown

JACKSON, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Mississippi's House of Representatives easily passed a bill on March 2 banning almost all abortions in the state, adding momentum to what some see as a national challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion nationwide during the entire nine months of pregnancy.

The bill, Senate Bill 2922, originated in the Mississippi Senate as a bill to include fetal sonograms as part of pre-abortion counseling, but was amended in the House by Rep. Steve Holland of Planterville, who represents House District 16 in Lee County, to include the anti-abortion provisions. The bill passed the House 94-25 and bans all abortions except in the cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother. It now heads to the Mississippi Senate.

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, a Republican, has said he would sign it, which would undoubtedly spark a challenge to *Roe* that could end up before the U.S. Supreme Court in the years to come.

The bill initially had an exception only for the mother's life, but the House amended it to add exceptions for rape and incest. That amendment passed, 62-56.

"Mississippi Baptists always have opposed and always will oppose abortion on demand in the state," said Lee Yancey, consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. "A lawsuit has already been promised by pro-abortion groups, and it appears the U.S. Supreme Court is still 5-4 in favor of upholding *Roe*. The fight for the hearts and minds of Americans on this issue must continue, and much prayer is needed."

Terri Herring, president of Pro-Life Mississippi which is not affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said she backs the Mississippi bill but does have some concerns.

"We're very excited about the possibility," she told Baptist Press. "...We have refrained from pushing this type of legislation until we could see that the U.S. Supreme Court was ready to actually re-evaluate or overturn *Roe*. I think all experts agree that we are at least one justice short of being able to do that. Without knowing that God's hand is on this legislation, I think we have to proceed with caution."

South Dakota's legislature passed a bill in February banning abortions except in cases to save the mother's life. It now awaits the governor's signature. Other states are considering similar legislation. Supporters acknowledge that the bills likely will be struck down in federal court, but they hope the Supreme Court will consider the constitutionality of the bills and overturn *Roe*.

Mississippi's pro-lifers, though, have other concerns besides *Roe*. In 1998, Herring said, Mississippi's Supreme Court issued a decision (*Pro-Choice Mississippi v. Fordice*) finding a right to abortion within the state Constitution. Even if *Roe* were to be overturned, the state court decision would stand. "Until we overturn our own *Roe*, we can't hope to get this bill to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the other giant," she said.

For information on how to contact legislators, go to <http://www.ls.state.ms.us>, or contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@christianaction.com.

First contribution



Jeff Davis (center), pastor of Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto, delivers the first load of pennies for Mississippi Baptists' Memorial to the Missing, designed to commemorate the 50 million abortions that have occurred in the U.S. since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. Accepting the pennies are Jimmy Porter (left), executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) in Jackson, and CAC consultant Lee Yancey. For more information on the Memorial to the Missing, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: rwood@christianaction.com. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Miss. CP ahead of budget

After coming within a few thousand dollars of setting an all-time Mississippi Cooperative Program giving record in January, Mississippi Baptists did break the record for CP giving in the month of February, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The February total of \$2,788,353 is the highest ever recorded for February. The total is 4.55% higher than the \$2,666,974 given in February 2005 — the previous record for February. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$6,286,076, which is 6.95% above last year's giving during the same period and 20.4% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2006 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2006. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Hispanic Women's Retreat on March 17-18 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, and the Young Ringers Festival on March 25 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

SBC CP slips in February

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for February were \$16,243,662, nine-tenths of a percent, or \$149,434, below the \$16,393,096 received in February 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. As of Feb. 28, the year-to-date total of \$82,116,153.18 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$891,885, or one percent, under the \$83,008,038 received at the same point in 2005. Designated giving of \$79,734,315 for the same year-to-date period is 11.2%, or \$10,044,405, below gifts of \$89,778,720, received at this point last year. The \$41,191,010 in designated gifts received last month is \$11,007,376 below the \$52,199,386 received in February 2005, a decrease of 21%. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2004-05 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.



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A surprise legislative move on abortion

Mississippi pro-lifers were more than a little surprised last week when state Rep. Steve Holland of Plantersville added an amendment banning almost all abortions to a Senate bill that required the viewing of sonograms as part of legally required pre-abortion counseling. Most of the pro-life groups in the state, including the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, were not made aware beforehand that such a proposal was in the works.

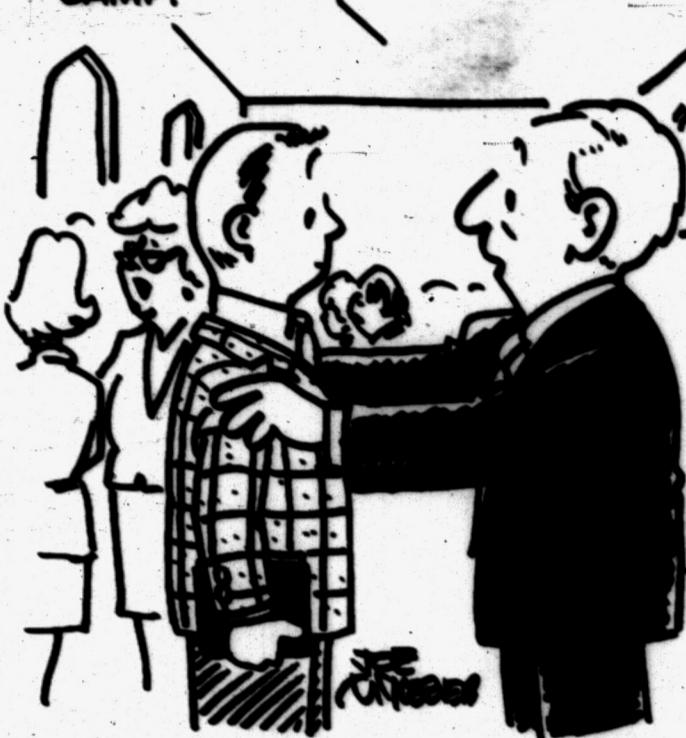
Holland, chairman of the House Public Health Committee, told reporters he was tired of the annual legislative effort to chip away at the legality of abortion in the state, removing one small piece at a time. Holland decided to go for broke, but not before mudding up the waters with an inscrutable explanation.

"I've just been besieged to put a Band-Aid on all kinds of abortion for years," the Democrat told The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson. "I am for life, but I have never felt comfortable as a male on that decision."

Huh?

Holland, a colorful and engaging legislator, probably meant well in attaching the amendment to the sonogram bill. Perhaps he is indeed frustrated with the piecemeal approach to abortion legislation, but there is also talk around state government that Holland may run for higher office in the 2007 elections, possibly northern district highway commissioner.

"SON, IT WAS A NICE SERMON. BUT YOU ARE NOT THE CHIEF OF SINNERS; YOU'RE NOT EVEN OUT OF BOOT CAMP."



Whatever the motivation, Holland has tapped into a deep-seated feeling held by many Mississippians and others across the nation that *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case in 1973 that legalized abortion across the country for the full nine months of pregnancy, is bound for the ash heap of history — if not here and now with this bill, then soon.

South Dakota legislators have in the last few weeks also approved legislation that would severely limit abortion in that state. That legislation, like the Mississippi legislation, has drawn

threats of lawsuits from pro-abortion groups. It appears we are headed for another abortion showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Mississippi Baptists always have opposed and always will oppose abortion on demand in the state," said Lee Yancey, consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, in an article elsewhere in the issue. "A lawsuit has already been promised by pro-abortion groups, and it appears the U.S. Supreme Court is still 5-4 in favor of upholding *Roe*. The fight for the hearts and minds of Americans on this issue must continue, and much prayer is needed."

As Yancey points out, even with the addition of conservative anti-abortion justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito, the pro-abortionists apparently still have the votes to sustain *Roe v. Wade*. Pro-life activists aren't giving up, though.

"We're very excited about the possibility," Terri Herring, president of Pro-Life Mississippi, recently told Baptist Press. "...We have refrained from pushing this type of legislation until we could see that the U.S. Supreme Court was ready to actually re-evaluate or overturn *Roe*. I think all experts agree that we are at least one justice short of being able to do that. Without knowing that God's hand is on this legislation, I think we have to proceed with caution."

The nation is once again nearing a crossroads on legalized abortion, this time with Mississippi playing a key role. The outcome is not yet clear. As Lee Yancey said earlier in this commentary, much prayer is needed. Let us begin praying now, and let us not stop until the great American abortion abomination is finally wiped away — and not a minute too soon.

GUEST OPINION:

Beware growing universalism

By R. Albert Mohler, president
Southern Seminary — Louisville, Ky.

do not believe that anyone is actually lost.

The essence of this belief is universalism, the belief that all persons will be saved, whether or not they have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. By this account, all religions have an equal claim to truth which underlies the "religious" character of humanity.

The believing church down through the ages has steadfastly resisted the universalist temptation, because universalism is so directly opposed to the clear teaching of Scripture. The Bible presents Jesus Christ and His atoning work as the only means of salvation, His Gospel as the only "good news" for a lost world, and the

Gospel as the global mandate of the Church.

There is no room for universalism, whatever its form, in evangelical churches. By rejecting the finality of Jesus Christ and the integrity of His Gospel, those who promote universalism are witnesses to another gospel — demonstrating a perversion of the Gospel as the Apostle Paul had warned.

The most dangerous trend may be found in the pews of evangelical churches, where more and more Christians are willing to reject or compromise the uniqueness of Christ and His atonement, citing the apparent "sincerity" of those who worship other gods, or no god at all. Many American

Christians seem increasingly reluctant to believe that their unsaved neighbors will go to hell. The urgency of world missions is a strange concept to a generation seemingly preoccupied with feel-good religion and self-help courses.

Where will the church stand? This is, as the late Carl F. H. Henry advised, a time for evangelical demonstration. Our words of support for the missionary cause are meaningless if we do not produce a new generation of bold, courageous and committed Christian missionaries. Let us make our convictions clear. Evangelical Christians must take our stand for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone has made atonement for our sins. In a day of pluralism, we must point to the only Gospel that offers salvation. We must learn again to define the true Gospel in terms of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

This is the sum and substance of the genuine Gospel — and the true Gospel is always a missionary Gospel.

This column was adapted from Mohler's website at www.albert-mohler.com, and appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Hindu pressure building in parts of India

DANGS, India (BP and local reports) — As U.S. President George W. Bush wraps up his first trip to India on a positive note, a new campaign against the conversion of Hindus to Christianity is "evidence of success" for the spread of the Gospel in India, a Christian worker there says.

Militant Hindu leaders mounted a major gathering in February in the northwestern state of Gujarat, the scene of many violent attacks on Christians and Muslims in recent years. The three-day Shabari Kumbh Mela attracted more than 400,000 Hindus to the Dangs district of Gujarat, home to as many as 60,000 tribal Christians. Billed as a worship gathering, the event raised major concerns among Indian Christians, who saw it as an attempt to intimidate — or force — tribal believers into "reconverting" to Hinduism.

The festival featured calls for an end to evangelistic efforts in Gujarat and accusations that church workers are bribing poor tribal Hindus to convert to Christianity. It ended with only one minor "skirmish" between Hindus and local Christians, news reports said, but Gujarat state officials have declared they will push for new "anti-conversion" laws and press tribal Christians to return to Hinduism. Radical Hindu groups also reportedly plan to hold similar events in other Indian states.

"It is nice that the Kumbh has passed off peacefully, but the inflammatory speeches delivered during the three days have sown seeds of possible conflicts," said a statement issued by the Church of North India. "This has created an environment of fear for us."

A Christian worker with contacts throughout the giant south Asian nation, however, has a more upbeat perspective. "Frankly, I look at it as evidence of success," the worker said. "The fact that so many Hindus are coming to Christ is a major reason [Hindu nationalists] are trying to put these anti-conversion laws in place. That's a good sign."

The ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was swept out of power in national elections in 2004 by the more secular Congress Party and has been losing momentum ever since. In the state of Tamil Nadu, for example, a hard-line BJP government won re-election that year — but only barely. State leaders quickly moved to repeal an anti-conversion law in place there.



PRESSURE MOUNTING — A Hindu prepares to take the "holy dip" during the 2004 Kumbh Mela festival in Ujjain, India, attended by up to 30 million pilgrims. A smaller Kumbh Mela, organized by Hindu radicals, was conducted in February in India's Gujarat state to pressure Hindu converts to Christianity to "reconvert" to Hinduism. (BP file photo)

"India has a strong commitment historically to democracy," the worker said. "A lot of Indians feel very uneasy about saying people cannot convert to another religion or have to get permission from a magistrate to convert. This is evidence of the success of the Gospel. Islam is bringing in a lot of converts, too — not necessarily because they like Islam; they're just tired of being untouchables. They're tired of being outcasts."

India remains overwhelmingly Hindu. At least 80% of its one-billion-plus people are Hindus. The Christian worker and other observers agree, however, that the radical ideal of a "pure" Hindu India clashes with several powerful realities: India is a democracy. It is a rapidly growing global economic power. And it is home to at least 130 million Muslims (more than any other single country besides Indonesia), more than 24 million Christians and an incredibly varied collection of other faiths and cultures.

The ancient Hindu caste system was outlawed by India's constitution when the modern nation was founded, but it persists in most parts of the country. High-caste Hindus in some

areas depend on it for continued economic and social domination of lower castes.

"Caste Hinduism requires isolation and insulation from the outside world to exist," the worker said. "You must have no other choice to remain a Dalit, or untouchable. What's happening now is the modern world, with its globalization, is bringing opportunities, knowledge and options."

"These anti-conversion laws are the desperate, last-ditch effort of Hindu conservatives to hold onto a world where there are no choices. The weight of history and global economics is bringing their system crashing down around them, and they're trying to hold onto their status and a worldview that cannot survive in the 21st century."

While the threat of mass violence seems to have passed, these next few months could be terrible times of individual persecution and one-on-one threats as sadhus make their way through each village. The only real protection Hindu converts to Christ can count on is prayer.

SBC childcare open

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Registration is now open for families planning to enroll their children in the preschool childcare or the children's conference from June 11-14 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. For all information regarding registration, visit www.sbc.net and click on 2006 SBC Annual Meeting, then Children/Students. Childcare for infants through two-year-olds will be available from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday. Registration information may be obtained in one of three ways: e-mailing jackson@pgbc.com, including the sender's name and address; downloading a set of forms for each child at www.sbc.net, Children/Students; or writing to SBC Childcare, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 157, Pleasant Garden, NC 27313. The postmark deadline for preschool childcare registration is May 19 and is limited to 150 children. Parents wanting to register their children after May 19 may print the required information and bring it to Greensboro, where they will be registered on-site on a space-available basis. Questions about this year's childcare can be directed to Tricia Jackson at (336) 674-5382. Children ages three to four will be part of the children's conferences, along with other age-graded conferences for ages five through nine and ten through twelve. To register, visit www.sbc.net, then click on children/students section, or directly to www.childrensconferences.com, then click on Greensboro. The deadline for enrollment is May 19 and is limited to 400 children. Parents wanting to register their children after May 19 may inquire at the first session, where they will be registered on-site on a space-available basis.

Looking back

According to the Foreign Mission Board, overseas churches record a 14 to one member-to-baptism ratio, contrasting sharply with the 40 to one ratio among Southern Baptists in the United States.

According to reports from denominational demographers, Southern Baptists have grown to become the most racially, ethnically inclusive denomination in America — quite a surprise to some observers.

W. Douglas Hudgins accepts the call of First Church, Jackson, as pastor. He comes from First Church, Houston, Tex., where he has been pastor since November, 1942.



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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Scholarship Ministry

The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship Ministry, please contact our office at Post Office Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone us at (800) 292-3218, or (800) 748-1651, or visit our website, www.mbcf.org/gencies/mbf. A completed application must be received in the MBF office by April 30.

INVISIBLE SIGNS

Most churches, regardless of their shape or stripe, have a sign out front that indicates who they are. Often it is just a name, but sometimes it has a mission statement attached or a doctrinal position spelled out. Signs are very important because they give a first impression before you ever get inside a business or a church. The sign gives some indication of what is there. The sign business in general is an interesting industry because it attempts to grab your attention, sell a product, create interest, and often times to keep someone from making a mistake.

Recently, I ran across some really interesting signs that do get your attention, but I am not sure how much insight they bring. Just think about these signs. A sign on a highway read, "When this sign is under water, this road is impassable." Think about a sign that was found in a cemetery, "Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves." Consider this sign that was seen by a traveler down in Mexico, "Broken English spoken perfectly."

While thinking about those signs, I began to think about the unseen signs that may appear at our churches. What kind of signs do we put up in our churches, at which maybe no one can point and read, but still everyone knows what they say? Sometimes we have a sign, though it may be invisible, which says something about our priorities as believers. Everyone knows that the reason a church exists is because a group of people loves Jesus, but how sincere is that love, how deep is that love, and how significant is that love for Jesus? Whether we realize it or not, folks out in the community are watching.

Another invisible sign that we may put up in our churches has to do with purpose. What is our purpose as a church? While it is not an easy one-statement answer, surely



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

the leading point of everything that is a church has to involve reaching people for Christ. Church is not just a safe social club where people can meet. Although we may be safe and we may be social, there is a much higher purpose. Though the church is sometimes instructive, occasionally academic, and Jesus was a master teacher, we do not just exist to pass along information to others. Though we are to be salt and light to our world, we are not just cultural influencers trying to upgrade society. The purpose for which we exist cannot be lost in a jungle of things, for we exist so that people may know the Savior who can make an eternal difference as well as a present difference in their lives — but when those other things begin to become prominent, we take on a kind of spirit reflected in a sign that hung in a maternity ward. It said, "No children allowed." You just have to shake your head and say, "What?"

Have you ever seen those invisible signs that at times seem to be displayed around our church fellowship? "We love you just like you are, but if you want us to continue to love you, you are going to have to shape up and be at least as good as the rest of us." The church exists for eternal birthing purposes. I have never observed a physical or spiritual birth of a child where the child remained perfect throughout life.

The last invisible sign I would suggest that you might run into at church has to do with problems. I am not necessarily talking about problems in the church but just problems in general. There is the problem of conveying the wrong message to the community or the problem of letting folks know that they are not welcome among us. The sign out in front of a religious estate said, "Trespassers will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law." It was signed by the Sisters of Mercy. It is hard to take down invisible signs because no one wants to admit that they are there, but it sure would help if they did not exist. The advertising agency was right on target with a sign out front that said, "A business with no sign is a sign of no business." The only thing worse than no sign is a bad sign. Dozens of times I have visited a church with a sign out front that announced, "Everyone is Welcome." When I entered the door I found out that nobody would speak to you, some folks even shunned you, and others were gifted at ignoring you. The sign out front becomes meaningless because the signs, invisible as they may be, hang across our hearts and indicate something opposite of our profession.

Today some of us could make a difference in the life, ministry, and perception of our church simply by having a sign burning in our own lives and erecting a new, meaningful, joy-filled, and Christ honoring sign that touches people's lives and truly makes a difference.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



TRAVEL WITH OTHER BAPTISTS DEPARTING SEPT. 16, 2006

"Autumn Leaves" Tour Visits Historical East

Depart September 16th, join other Baptists, and combine a New England & East Coast Historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motorcoach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); and New York City (guided city tour). You'll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; Mystic, CT; tour Boston including the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There's even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and "bewitching" Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence Seaway in "upper NY" to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying home. Prices, per person, double occpy. start at only \$1148 including all taxes. Add \$400 airfare from Gulfport/Biloxi or Jackson, MS; Memphis, TN or Birmingham, AL. Space is limited to 46 on our motorcoach. Family & friends welcome. \$100 deposits are now due.

For information, reservations and detailed itinerary call 7 Days a Week:
'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

2006 PREACHING CONFERENCE

PASTOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

First Baptist Church
Vicksburg
Monday, April 24

First Baptist Church
Starkville
Tuesday, April 25

For more info: Call the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department at 601-292-3305
or 1-800-748-1651

■ ■ ■
Featured Presenter
Wayne VanHorn

Theme

A Preaching Approach to
the Deuteronomic History:
Deuteronomy, Joshua,
Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel,
I & II Kings



**GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER
OVERNIGHT
MARCH 31 - APRIL 1
CAMP GARAYWA**

GRADES 1-6 Cost: \$38

Registration Deadline: March 17 or when full

*A special time for mothers and their GA daughters
to share the excitement of missions learning.
Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation
and a missionary visit.
All overnights begin at
5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.*

For more information contact the wMu at 1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3322.

2006
Ministry
Assistants
Conference

April 3-4
Camp Garaywa
Clinton

Info Contact: Kay McDonnell
Pastor Leadership Development
601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651

2006 Young Musicians Camps

July 17-21
Guest Director: **KAY PAYTON**
Choral Director
Park Crest Middle School
Pflugerville, Texas

July 24-28
Guest Director: **TERRY TAYLOR**
Minister of music
First Baptist Church
Dothan, Alabama



**Blue
Mountain
College**

For more info,
Contact the Church Music Dept.
601-292-3271 or 1-800-748-1651



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JULY 10-14, 2006



*Church Facilities
& Furnishings
WORKSHOP*

Second Annual Hispanic Women's Retreat



March 17-18, 2006
17-18 de Marzo de 2006
Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.

Bible study, testimonies, music, prayer, fellowship
 Estudio Bíblico, testimonios, alabanzas, grupos de oración, compañerismo

Special Guest Conference Leader and Author of
"Does Love Bear All Things?"
Conferencista Invitada y Autora de "¿El amor todo lo soporta?"
Mrs. Mirta Vazquez Hna. Mirta Vazquez
Florida/Argentina Desde Florida/Argentina

Cost: \$20 per person – Childcare Provided
Costo: \$20 por persona – Habrá cuidado de niños
Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 17.
Registro empieza a las 2:00 p.m. el Viernes
17 de Marzo

DEADLINE TO REGISTER MARCH 9
ÚLTIMO PLAZO PARA REGISTRARSE 9 DE MARZO

For more information contact: Para más información comuníquese con:
 Mrs. Damaris Medina
 Hna. Damaris Medina
 601-267-5393
 jmedina@netdoor.com

MISSISSIPPI
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 PARENTS
 FELLOWSHIP

ALL AROUND
 THE WORLD
 WITH LOVE

April 21-22
 Activities Building
 Camp Garaywa, Clinton



**VARIETIES OF
 HELPFUL SESSIONS**
Friday, 2 - 9:15 p.m.
Saturday, 8:30 - luncheon

**Anniversary
 Luncheon
 12:30 p.m.**

Register by April 14

WITNESSING

THROUGH MEDIA

WORKSHOPS

- "Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation – Led by Don Moore and David Bunger
 Participants will walk through the basic camera operations such as framing, functions and camera directions.
- Getting Started on the Web – Led by J.C. Howell
 Internet beginners can see what you need to know about getting online and publishing a church Web page.
- How Did They Do That? (1 hour session for everyone) Examples will be shown. Share your samples ... bring on VHS format.
- Creative Production – Led by Don Moore and David Bunger
 Creating spots, outreach videos, devotional thoughts, VBS promotion, budget presentations and others for the local church.
- Sound Advice Basic – Led by Trooper Hales
 Participants will receive audio tips and production techniques for the sound operator (house and broadcast).
- Sound Advice Advanced – Led by Trooper Hales
 This question and answer format workshop will go a step further in helping both broadcast and house audio operators with practical help.
- Advanced Web Site Design – Led by J.C. Howell
 Participants who have a basic knowledge of Web site design and want to take your church Web page to the next level.
- Non-Linear Editing for Weekly Church Broadcast – Led by Lynn Bullock
 If you are still using traditional tape based editing to edit your weekly worship service, this session will demonstrate an efficient solution for using today's low cost non-linear systems to simplify the process.
- Projection Systems Forum – Led by Joe Dillon
 If you are interested in, familiar with, just bought or looking for ways to use your video projection system, this question and answer format workshop is for you.

BASIC

MAY 5-6, 2006 • PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH • PEARL

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I need a reservation for (#):

- All activities on Friday and Saturday, \$25 enclosed
- All activities with group of four or more, \$20 each enclosed
- Friday Awards Banquet only, \$15 enclosed
- Saturday Workshop only, \$15 enclosed

Please mark the workshops you will attend. This information is needed by registration deadline because workshops will be limited to a certain number of people. Every effort will be made to accommodate any adjustments.

9:30 A.M. CONFERENCES (mark one)
 "Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation
 Non-Linear Editing
 Sound Advice Basic
 How to Get Started on the Web

1:45 P.M. CONFERENCES (mark one)
 Creative Production
 Projection Systems Forum
 Sound Advice Advanced
 Advanced Web Site Design

Reservation Deadline is April 19, 2006

- Full refunds prior to April 19, 2006. No refund after that date.
- Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
- Mail to: Ian Richardson, WTM, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

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Pray this day for...

March 10 - 23, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"As Christians, our walk of daily discipleship is one of dependence on God. What I did last week, or what I hope to do tomorrow, is not important. What's important is whether or not I walk with the Lord in faith and obedience today."

Devotional Ministry of the Navigators

Don N. Hayhurst, Nampa, Idaho, is the director of missions for the Treasure Valley Association in southwest Idaho (Boise-Nampa-Meridian-Caldwell). This area is the 18th fastest growing metropolitan area in the nation. Pray for the existing 27 churches and missions and for workers to plant 100-new works in the area.

For: (1) Substance Abuse Sunday (CAC Emphasis); (2) Praise God that the "Give a Cup of Cold Water in Jesus' Name" ministry at the South Plains Fair in Lubbock, Texas experienced a great harvest. God used 326 volunteers from 29 churches to save 374 souls.

Remember in prayer those who will be involved in the core groups of two new church plants seeking to reach professional and middle-class people in the South Zone of the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Thank God for those who have already committed themselves to participating in this project.

"It is a dark and quiet night in rural Haiti," writes the Rural Haiti Team. "Do you hear the tormented scream? Now other people are crying out. Another one of our neighbors has died. Maybe this person has had a chance to hear about Jesus' love and has responded. Pray that the message of Christ will be a burden to Christians that must be shared today, before it's too late."

In December 2005 the 43 year-old pastor of the Manzini Baptist Church of Swaziland suddenly passed away. He left a wife and three children. Intercede for this family as they deal with their grief and loss. Pray for the Manzini Baptist Church, as the congregation currently is without a pastor.

For: (1) Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop (P/LD); (2) Cathy Fisher, Blanchard, Okla., chaplain and president of Called to Care Inc., provides day-by-day spiritual support to nursing home and assisted-living residents. Pray for God to use the Bible studies being provided there to draw residents to Jesus.

For: (1) Campers on Missions, Freewill Baptist Youth Camp, Waynesboro, 15th-18th (MM); (2) Terri Forrester, Kotzebue, Alaska, is a church starter strategist in the Arctic of Alaska and her ministry includes helping Eskimo women deal with their problem of alcoholism and abuse. Pray that God will touch the hearts of these women.

There are 2,239 distinct unreached Muslim people groups around the world. In recent years, work has begun in many previously untouched groups. In many of these, the church is growing, and in a few it is growing rapidly! Pray for workers among Muslims to persevere. Ask God to send workers into untouched groups. Pray for the barriers to faith to be broken down. Pray that this work will succeed.

Workers write: "We at the International Prayer Center of Jerusalem are in the process of developing a web-based CD that visitors and others interested in the work of the Prayer Center can run from their computer. Pray that this project would fulfill its purpose of making known the needs of the lost."

For: (1) Missions Mobilization Global Impact Conference, FBC, Jackson, 2-5 p.m. (MMOB); (2) Missions Mobilization Global Impact Banquet, FBC, Jackson, 6-9 p.m. (MMOB); (3) Pray for the new outreach group among the Deaf in Rivera, Uruguay. Ask the Lord to replace prejudice with enlightenment and understanding as they seek to reach the Deaf with the Gospel.

For: (1) Hispanic Women's Retreat, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 17th - 18th (wMu); (2) Pray for an additional cell group forming among the Go-Land People of the Pacific Rim. The five families involved have decided to meet for prayer and Bible study on Wednesday nights. Pray that this group will become a strong congregation.

For: (1) Missions Mobilization Global Impact Conference, FBC, Jackson, (MMOB); (2) Please pray today for President Ricardo Lagos Escobar of Chile (western South America); (3) Christian workers in Hungary face all kinds of barriers in ministry such as spiritual renewal and church growth. Pray that the barriers to the Gospel will be overcome in the Hungarian culture.

Karin Hogrefe, Boston, Mass., is a college minister working with collegiate church planting. Pray for a team to plant a church in the Fenway area of Boston, near Northeastern University, where there are 12 colleges, 30,000+ students, and no evangelical church.

State Senior Adult Retreats

2 • 0 • 0 • 6



Making A Difference
Acts 16:15

INFO: Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office, 601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651.

RETREAT I
May 15-17, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)

Preacher - Bill Baker, former pastor, FBC, Clinton
Choir - Lincoln Chorale, Brookhaven (Monday)
Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Tuesday)

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 8

Breakouts - Sta-fit - Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

- Don't Retire, Just Rewire! - John Patterson, Jackson
- Senior Challenge Acts 1:8 - Paul Harrell, Jackson
- Reality of Experiencing God - Julius Thompson, Clinton
- Jar of Joyful Laughter - Gene Rester, Jackson

Morning Watch - Gordon Sansing Forest

Afternoon class 'History of Hymn' - Irene Martin, Harperville

COST
determined
by lodging
preference

RETREAT II
May 22-24, FBC, Natchez (601-442-1464)

Preacher - Jack Glaze, former NOBTS/MC professor
Choirs - Lincoln Chorale, Brookhaven (Monday)

Sweet Spirit Singers, Liberty (Tuesday)

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 15

Breakouts - Sta-fit - Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

- Don't Retire, Just Rewire! - Jeff Doremus, Brookhaven
- Senior Challenge Acts 1:8 - Don Stuart, Hattiesburg
- Reality of Experiencing God - John McCall, Clinton
- Jar of Joyful Laughter - Mickey Bounds, Farmersville, La.

Morning Watch - Talmadge Smith, Brookhaven

Afternoon class 'History of Hymn' - Irene Martin, Harperville

COST
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• Commuters
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5-20-88
MR. JOHN R. McCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret
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5-24-91
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HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Smith and Early, DeSoto Church, Clark Association



3. Everett, Miles, and Davis, Parkway Church, Scott Association



4. Acteens, Liberty Church, New Albany



5. Sanctity of Life Sunday, Coat Church, Simpson County



EVANGELISM BIBLE CONFERENCES — 2006 — JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

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Sunday 10:30 & 6:00 • Emir Caner • Dean
 The College at Southwestern • Former Muslim

Monday 7:00pm • Fred Luter, Jr • Pastor
 Franklin Avenue BC • New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday 7:00pm • Ted Traylor • Pastor
 Olive Baptist Church • Pensacola, Florida

Wednesday 7:00pm • Jim McNeil
 Drama Evangelist • St. Louis, Missouri

Special Music • 5:30pm Sun & 6:30pm M - W

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FREE LUNCH 11:55am - 1:00pm M-W with
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UPCOMING 2006 BIBLE CONFERENCES

April 2 thru 5 at FBC Pascagoula, MS

July 23 thru 26 at FBC Batesville, MS

August 6 thru 9 at Salem Heights BC - Laurel, MS

James E Messer Ministries, Inc • PO Box 1325 • Theodore, AL
 Phone: (800 or 251)653-6652 • www.jamesmesser.com

1. **DeSoto Church, Clarke Association**, ordained Robbie Early to the gospel ministry Jan. 29. Early serves as part-time worship leader and minister of music. Shown are pastor Jim Smith and Early.

2. **First Church, Eupora**, honored William S. Stewart upon his retirement as pastor of the church after 41-and-a-half years, bestowing on him the title of pastor emeritus. A crowd of over 600 attended the event on Feb. 26.

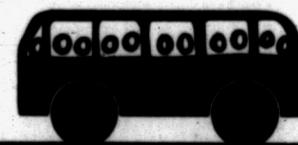
3. **Parkway Church, Scott Association**, recently licensed John Miles to the gospel ministry. Shown are Mike Everett, AMD, Miles, and pastor Floyd Davis. Miles is available for ministry opportunities and can be contacted at (601) 537-3767.

4. **Acteens from Liberty Church, New Albany**, baked cookies for the New Albany police, sheriff, and firemen. Shown are the participants.

5. **Coat Church, Simpson County**, participated in Sanctity of Life Sunday. Shown are several crosses and some of the participants.

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UEQ HLR DOLTCQOYP
PLTM PLO GTPO PLUP AY
AE PLR DITPLOIY ORO,
DMP WOIVOAZOYP ETP
PLO DOUG PLUP AY AE
PLAEO THE ORO?
CMBO YAJ: NTIPR-TEO

Clue: D = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eleven: Twenty-Five.

MS POSITIONS

PIKE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is accepting resumes for Director of missions position. Please send to Pike County Baptist Association, search committee, 630 Missouri Ave., McComb, MS 39648. Resumes will be accepted until April 15, 2006.

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 814 Marwood Loop, SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629. The church is located 4 miles south of Brookhaven in the Hogchain community.

BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MS, is accepting resumes for the new ministerial position of Minister of Education. Special consideration will be given to candidates with experience. Full-time applicants are preferred but part-time applicants will be considered. Please send resume to Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073. Attention: Terry Warren.

HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music/worship leader with interests in both traditional and contemporary worship styles. Please send resumes and references to Heucks Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd., NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601, attn: chairman, personnel committee, or call (601) 672-3518.

SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH in Wesson is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, MS 39191.

NORTH CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is accepting resumes for Director of Missions position. Please send to search committee chairman, c/o North Central Baptist Association, 1045 Fairfield, Grenada MS. 38901. All resumes must be received by March 17.

EVANGELISTIC GROWING CHURCH looking for like-minded Minister of Education/Sr. Adult Minister. Please send resume to: P.O. Box 246, Purvis, MS 39475.

Donna Duck Wheeler, alumni director for 17 years at William Carey College, has announced her retirement after 41 years of service to her alma mater. The school is now searching for a qualified candidate to fill the position of director of alumni. More information can be obtained at www.wmcarey.edu or by calling (601) 318-6524.

Wheeler

Mississippi College is proud to announce the state's first cohort in Dyslexia Therapy. The masters of education in Dyslexia Therapy degree at Mississippi College has been approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education as a graduate degree meeting all requirements for advanced degree by elementary and secondary licensed teachers. Mississippi College is one of only five schools in the nation to offer a masters degree in Dyslexia Therapy and the first in Mississippi. Front row (from the left): Mitti Bilbo, Qualified Instructor-In-Training (Brookhaven), Sharon Panter (Jasper, Ala.), Laurie Ward (McCool), Terri Broome (Batesville), Cathy South (Canton), Melissa Boutwell (Clinton), Kay Peterson, Instructor (Dallas, Tex.), and Barbara Fox, Instructor (Dallas, Tex.). Back row: Julie Wilkinson (Gloster), Abby Banks (Jasper, Ala.), Meta Abraham (Edwards), Diane Shook (Cascilla), Hilda Mitchell (Corinth), Angela Carpenter (Rienzi), and Amanda Langford (Charleston).



MC is state's first cohort in Dyslexia Therapy

REVIVALS

Benton Church, Benton: Revival, Mar. 12-15; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ralph Hunt, speaker; Phil Dixon, music; Charles Moore, pastor.

Crowder Church, Crowder: Youth Revival, Mar. 15-17; 7 p.m. nightly, followed by activities; Gary Permenter and Tim Mims, speakers.

Providence Church, Jayess: Revival, Mar. 12-15; nightly, 7 p.m.; Jeff Box, Odessa, Tex., speaker; Troy Stevenson, Odessa, Tex., music; Ron Satterwhite, pastor.

West Ripley Church, Ripley: Revival, Apr. 9-12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Fred Clift, speaker; Matt Tyler, music; Randy P. Latch, pastor.



Holly Church, Alcorn Association: Revival, Apr. 2-5; Larry Robertson, Clarksville, Tenn., speaker; Billy Joe Kennedy, Savannah, Tenn., music; Tony Morrow, pastor. For more information, call (662) 286-3474.

Friendship Church, McComb: Revival, Mar. 24-26; Fri.-Sat. 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Tim Parker, speaker, Fri. and Sat.; Mack Amis, speaker, Sun.; Phillip Alford, music; LaVern Summerlin, pastor.

Springdale Church, Attala County: Revival, Mar. 19-22; Sun., 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Richardson, speaker; 4Praise Quartet, The Howards, The Mangums, and Tom and Linda Thompson, music. Ladell Blanton, pastor.

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville: Revival, Mar. 26-29; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker; Randy Carney, music; Shannon D. Marshall, pastor.

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A HEALTHY AND GROWING MISS. BAPTIST CONGREGATION, FRIENDSHIP CHURCH OF ECRU, invites your interest in \$1.2 million General Mortgage Bonds, issued by Rives and Leavell Co. of Jackson. Issue date March 15. Interest rates of 4.35 to 7.60%. Contact Morris Ernest: (800) 847-2908 or mearnest@rivesleavell.com. Not an offer nor a solicitation to buy. Some restrictions apply.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ELKIN, NC, is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Seminary or divinity degree required. The minister will coordinate programs, lead, and minister to the K-12 children and families. Send inquiries: Personnel Committee; First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 618; Elkin, NC, 28621. Email: 1stbaptistelkin@earthlink.net; website: www.elkinfbc.org.

SALE: EAST MISS. CHURCH HAS OAK FURNITURE FOR SALE. Twenty, 12 feet, and three, 10 feet. Two pulpit chairs, 1 pulpit, 1 lectern, \$3,700. Call (601) 527-7404.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT OLIVE is now accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music. Masters degree desired. Video or DVD would be greatly appreciated. Please submit resumes to FBCMO, attn: search committee, 3200 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive, AL 35117, church phone (205) 631-4401.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Keep Praying

Luke 11: 1-13

By Huey Dedmon

In our Christian life we often find ourselves frustrated and overwhelmed by the size of the task we have undertaken for God. Our frustrations are also heightened by the opposition we encounter. Whether it is teaching a Sunday school class, working in a ministry of our church, or participating in evangelism, we feel unprepared to accomplish what we have set our minds and hearts to do. Have you ever wondered why this is the case? I believe it is because we are trying to do God's work without God's power. We must remember God's power comes through prayer. We are missing the blessings of serving God because we pray so poorly and so little. In Luke 11, Jesus was praying. His

disciples came to him and asked him to teach them how to pray. If we truly want to experience God's power we must learn how to pray and what better way to learn than from Jesus.

As you read through Luke's account of Jesus' teaching on how to pray, you immediately pick up on the characteristics of praying effectively. The first characteristic of effective prayer is praying intentionally. When we approach our heavenly Father we should be very intentional about what and how we are praying. Several elements are essential when we pray. Jesus told his disciples to begin their prayers with "Father, hallowed be thy name." (v.2) In our praying we must recognize who God is and praise Him because



Dedmon

He is God. We must also pray for His will to be done; "your kingdom come." (v.2) Verse three and four tell us that we should pray for our daily needs and for forgiveness of our sins. Scripture teaches us that God uses clean vessels. A daily recognition of our sinful state and asking for forgiveness is essential to a power filled walk with God. Effective prayer will focus on these characteristics Jesus gave to his disciples.

Jesus goes on to teach his disciples that not only should we pray intentionally, we should pray "persistently." (Luke 11:5-10) He tells a story of a man who went to a friend at midnight to borrow some provisions because he had a visitor in his home and had nothing to give him to eat. Because of the customs of the day, it would have offended his guest if he could not provide a meal for him and his reputation would have been tarnished. He woke up another friend to ask

for help. Jesus taught his disciples that he would receive the things he needed because he was persistent in his asking. The Holman Christian Standard Bible reads; "So I say to you, keep asking and it will be given you. Keep searching and you will find. Keep knocking and the door will be opened to you." (v.9) We live in a culture that is inundated with the "instant gratification" syndrome. If you cannot give me what I want now, I will go somewhere that can give it to me now. God desires to know our heart, and He judges the level of our commitment to Him by our persistence in prayer to Him.

His teaching on how to pray continues in Luke 11:11-13 as He teaches us to pray "expectantly." There has never been a time in my life when I asked for something good for me from my dad that he gave me something bad. Jesus makes the point that if we as humans know how to give good things to our children, then how much more will our Father in Heaven give good things to

us, His children. Prayer should be done expecting God to answer. More often we pray but really do not believe that He will answer. No wonder our frustrations overtake us. No wonder our lives seem powerless, they are! We are powerless because we do pray intentionally, persistently, or expectantly.

I also want to call your attention to one truth in verse 13 that we often miss. The gift that God promises to give us when we pray is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Any ability we have to live a power filled Christian life can only come through God's spirit living in and through us. The Holy Spirit is the "good gift" our Father wants to give us. Prayer is the key to receiving and unlocking the power of God in our lives. Pray intentionally, pray persistently and pray expectantly. God desires to work through us, and He desires to give us all we need to accomplish His will.

Dedmon is minister of education at First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Do You Volunteer to Serve?

Isaiah 6:1-11

By Lori Clendinning

This past week an urgent prayer need arose for members of our couples' Sunday School class. As I dialed number after number on Friday night and Saturday morning, I found very few class members at home and opted to leave phone messages instead. When I mentioned this during Sunday School, one of the class members jokingly said, "Actually, we all saw your name and number on the Caller I.D., but we didn't answer because we thought you were calling us to substitute teach!"

As humorous as that response was, it sadly points out an all-too-often reply when God's people are faced with a call to ministry. However, in this week's Sunday School lesson which focuses on Isaiah 6:1-11, Judah's great prophet

reveals a wholly different response to God's calling him to ministry.

Born in Jerusalem between 770 and 760 BC, young Isaiah was under the reign of King Uzziah who took the throne at age sixteen following the death of his father, King Amaziah. During his forty year reign from 783-742 BC, King Uzziah defeated the Philistines, fortified Jerusalem's ramparts, trained Judah's armies, and advanced the nation in agriculture and cattle raising (2 Chronicles 26). It was during the year of mourning following the death of King Uzziah when God revealed himself to Isaiah.

In the vision in which God spoke to him, Isaiah "saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted..." (Isaiah 6:1). The Lord's sovereignty and holiness was manifested, com-



Clendinning

pelling Isaiah to recognize his own pitiful state of sinfulness. Despite Isaiah's contemptible and unholy status, God called him out to serve Him.

Like Isaiah, how blessed we are to realize that our own sinfulness and unworthiness does not disqualify us from joining God in His service. As His holiness reveals our disgrace, it is this recognition of our pathetic condition which moves us into a repentant position of falling before the Lord and asking for His forgiveness.

As Isaiah cried out in verse 5, "Woe to me... I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips..." God reached out to Isaiah in his unworthy state and immediately cleansed him by touching Isaiah's lips with the burning coal, declaring in verse 7, "See, this has touched your lips, your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Likewise, when we are faced with the God of Scripture, we know that He is God, and we

are not. We can provide God with our laundry list of why we are unworthy but until we lean forward and let Him burn away our sin by applying the fiery brand of Christ's death and resurrection, we shall remain unchanged, forever condemned.

As sinners we must acknowledge the darkness and enslavement of personal sin. As believers in Jesus Christ we move into the light and the freedom of salvation He offers. As we experience the Lord's cleansing of our sin, our gratitude to Him should, like Isaiah, compel us into His service. When God asked Isaiah in verse 8, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah eagerly responded, "Here am I. Send me!" Then, as Isaiah volunteered for service, God granted him a specific assignment: "Go and tell this people..." (Isaiah 6:9)

It was not a pleasant duty to which Isaiah was appointed. His ministry was to be a difficult one. He was out of his comfort zone and headed toward a taxing time, yet Isaiah risked it all for his Redeemer.

Indeed, volunteering is risky business when it comes to the Lord's calling. Too often we are reluctant to step out and say, "Yes! Pick me! I'll do it!" When the Holy Spirit dials us up, do we answer or try to avoid the call? How do we respond when the church's nominating committee calls about a particular job to do? Interestingly, nowhere in Scripture does it record that Jesus ever replied to anyone's request for help by saying, "Let me go and pray about that first."

Christian recording artist Margaret Becker once said, "Taking chances is how you find what's right for you. If you only stay with what's safe, in a sense you dictate what God can do with you. He can only move you as far as you're willing to go."

How far are we willing to go for God? May we all be like Isaiah, eagerly and joyously responding to the Lord's calling, "Here am I. Send me!"

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbch.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Christmas Musical, Williamsville Church, Williamsville



2. Children of Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle, sing for the residents of Sunshine Inn



3. Burnham and Bigbie, Heritage Heights Church, Laurel



5. Singh receives scholarship, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah

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6. A men's quartet from First Church, Jackson, recently sang at the Legislative Prayer Breakfast at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Shown, from left, are Roger Williamson, Michael Gibson, Sam Mason, and Phil Posey.



4. Hispanic mission in Batesville celebrates 6th anniversary



6. FBC Jackson's Quartet performs at Legislative Prayer Breakfast



7. Children in Action, Coldwater Church, Philadelphia

9. First Church, Sumrall's, Women's Ministry will host Once Upon a Time, with speaker Page Hughes, March 24-25. Fri., meal at 6 p.m., program at 7 p.m.; Sat., breakfast, 8 a.m., program at 9 a.m.; cost, \$12. Door prizes. Name, number of tickets needed, money, and address to church by Mar. 20; for more information, call (601) 758-4738.

Mar. 12. Sunday School, 9:45, followed by music, worship, lunch, and gospel sing at 1 p.m.

p.m. and Mar. 11, 10 a.m. Jack David Daniels, speaker; Mark Lenier, music.

10. Calvary Church, New Augusta, will host its annual Turner Memorial Day

11. Hebron Church, Pheba, will host a men's retreat, Taking a Stand, Mar. 10, 7

12. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, will host the Mark Trammell Trio in concert, Mar. 19, 6 p.m.